



Bright Futures Youth Center, Inc. is an incorporated non-profit organization. It has several youth programs that introduce positive educational and recreational activities to inner city youth as an alternative to "street life".

Statement of George Cruz
Before the Appropriations Committee
March 4, 2011

Senator Harp, Representative Walker and member of the committee:

My name is George Cruz and I'm the Executive of Bright Futures Youth Center of Hartford.

For over twenty years, The Youth Center has provided successful after school programs for well over 300 at risk kids each year. In 1993, we partnered with State of Connecticut Department of Social Services and through our programs, many of children went on to college, some have become Policemen, Firemen, teachers, paralegals, etc.

We all know that unfortunately to house a prisoner costs the State over \$60,000.00 a year. It is well documented that this Center has kept many young adults from going to prison and have saved the state millions of dollars.

I oppose the Governor's proposed elimination of all funding to the Hispanic Human Resource Development (HHRD) & Hispanic Human Development (HHD) line-items. It isn't fair to balance the budget on the backs of low-income and poor resident when we are considered to be part of the "Safety Net".

I urge the State to continue funding these vital programs.

Sincerely,
George Cruz
George Cruz
Executive Director